

*Calls on Congress to pass resolution urging all universities to join program*

Camden, NJ - Congressman John Adler today applauded Rutgers University-Camden for joining the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) Consortium, which would allow service members to enroll in bachelor and graduate-level degree programs offered by Rutgers on school campuses, military installations, and armories within the United States and overseas. Rutgers University-Camden received their official SOC status this week. Congressman Adler first urged Rutgers President Richard McCormick to join the program last September.

"This is great news for New Jersey's military community and veterans," said Congressman Adler, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "President McCormick's efforts to provide increased education opportunities will make a real impact in the lives of our brave service men and women."

Congressman Adler introduced a House Resolution in June urging every institute of higher education in the country to become a member of the SOC consortium.

Servicemembers face numerous challenges in their pursuit of higher education, either while they are still on active duty or a newly-returned veteran. Oftentimes, these brave men and women have trouble attaining college degrees because of their frequent relocations.

Bryan Adams, a Purple Heart recipient from Operation Iraqi Freedom and the president of Veterans for Education said, "The Servicemembers Opportunity College Consortium is going to ease the transition from combat to college and help our veterans to become more successful sooner. We would like to see this program at every University in America, and thank Congressman Adler for his help in this endeavor."

"This program will make a real difference in the lives of our veterans" said Bill Brown, former president of Veterans for Education. "I appreciate Congressman Adler and Rutgers President McCormick's efforts on behalf of our servicemembers and veterans."

The Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) Consortium is a 1,800-member consortium of institutions of higher education, which allows service members to enroll in associate, bachelor and graduate-level degree programs offered by SOC Consortium members on school

campuses, military installations, and armories within the United States and overseas.